

In the Claims:

1. (canceled).
2. (canceled).
3. (canceled).
4. (canceled).
5. (canceled).
6. (currently amended) A relay comprising: a base that defines a base plane; a magnet system arranged on the base including a coil, a core and an armature; at least one pair of closing spring contacts and at least one pair of opening spring contacts, each pair of spring contacts including a passive and an active spring contact, and each spring contact being secured in the base, standing essentially perpendicular to the base plane, and having at an end remote from the base a contact portion; and an actuating slide movable parallel to the base plane to act on each active spring contact, ~~in the vicinity of the contact portion~~  
~~characterised in that~~  
the slide being configured to acts on the active spring contact of the pair of opening spring contacts at a different distance from ~~spacing from the spacing at the base~~ than the distance ~~from the base at which the slide~~ ~~and from that at which it acts on the corresponding closing spring contacts.~~
7. (currently amended) The relay according to Claim 6, wherein the slide acts on the active opening spring contacts ~~in each case at a larger spacing as regards the point at which it is secured~~ in greater distance from the base than from that at which the distance from the base at which it acts on the active closing spring contacts.

8. (currently amended) The relay according to Claim 7, wherein all of the active spring contacts are of the same ~~construction~~ configuration.
9. (previously added) The relay according to Claim 6, wherein in the untensioned condition all the active spring contacts adopt an open position with respect to their associated passive spring contacts, and in that the active opening spring contacts are switched by the force of a restoring spring and the active closing spring contacts are switched by the force of the magnet system to their respective closing position.
10. (previously added) The relay according to Claim 6, wherein the magnet system has a U-shaped core with a core limb lying inside the coil and a yoke limb lying outside the coil, with the cross-section of iron within the core limb being increased by an additional flux member.
11. (new) A relay comprising at least one active closing spring contact having a contact portion thereon, at least one active opening spring contact having a contact portion thereon, and a slide, the spring contacts being fixed at a base plane remote from the contact portions, and the slide configured to move parallel to the base plane and to engage the active opening spring contact and the active closing spring contact at different distances from the base plane.
12. (new) The relay according to claim 11 further comprising a passive opening spring contact and a closing spring contact corresponding to each active opening spring contact and closing spring contact respectively, and wherein the slide has blocking walls extending between and separating each pair of corresponding spring contacts.
13. (new) -The relay according to claim 12 wherein at least one of the blocking walls has a recess to accommodate the contact portion of the corresponding spring contact.